

## **Notice of Public Meeting of a Public Body**

Sections 7.6, 7.7.4 and 7.9.1

### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING OF THE**

### **Governor's Forest Health ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Pursuant to A.R.S. Section 38-431, notice is hereby given to the members of the Forest Health Advisory Council and to the general public that the **Forest Health Advisory Council** will hold a meeting open to the public:

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004, 1:30 p.m.**  
**Arizona Department of Agriculture – Conference Room #206**  
**1688 W. Adams - Phoenix, AZ 85007**

1) Call to order

Attendance (present): L. Faeth, B. Broscheid, C. Edminster, T. McKennan, K. S---, M. Moore, R. Van Demarl

2) Review and vote on minutes from the **7.8.04** meeting

3) Subcommittees

a. Reports

i. Utilization & Commerce –

Marty Moore

- a. principles were approved by governors' oversight council
- b. specific recs were changed to easier language, and will be taken back to this council as well as the oversight

ii. Zoning & Implementation –

Mayor Joe  
Donaldson

iii. Legislation –

Mike  
Sommerville

- a. policy working group met and presented recs to oversight council this morn. (hand-out from that mtg)
- b. policy working group will start meeting weekly, and will be open to everyone; goal is to have a legis. packet; committee summit in Flagstaff (educate people on various components)

iv. Education –

Michael Neal

v. Mapping & Assessment –

Kathy  
Hemmenway

- a. meet again in Oct. (missed Aug or Sept mtg)- to give people time to work on various projects
- b. AZ Firemap Proj- Glen is here as well; Needs Assessment Summary hand-out; group is looking for some feedback on it
- c. FTP site at National Interagency website for data exchange
- d. Short workshop at AGIC conference- role of mapping committee to be discussed (OCT)
- e. Land fire rapid assessment workshop in Albuquerque (10/25-10/29); mid-scale assessment (less than 1km and more than 30 m) looking at data vail and bringing in experts for review, ultimate goal to improve fire regime condition class data; to start getting data land fire needs to switch to fine scale and have fire regime ratings to stand scale (FRCC.gov has updated their guideline for this stand scale)---- registration info will be sent out to council

\*\*T& C entered in forest agreement to provide high quality info on ecosystems in AZ & NM; framework developed related to restoring forest, understanding of public on forest management & this group will continue to meet and work on these goals; opportunity still exists to give input on that June draft. Game/Fish dept. get involved in some projects and research- looking for volunteers to assist.

4) Forest Service presentation on White Mountain Stewardship Contract

a. Kate Klein

- location: Apache Sitgreaves National Forest (bordering NM, Coconino National Forest)
- 10 year contract to accomplish landscape level vegetation treatments over 50 to 250 K acres
- allows for cost of treatments to offset by value of merchantable trees to be removed (roundwood and saw timber)
- this project focuses on beyond the interface and increasing forest health
- thinning, road maintenance, etc.

b. Process, criteria, and timeline for bid award, and

- closed in middle of june
- 2 subcommittees reviewed the bids (3 companies bid), one looked at business ops, and the other subcom looked at the technical proposals (type of equipment, proposed method of treatment, market development for practical use of wood, considered using and training the local workforce, use of local existing contractors, exp of firm and personnel in business/technical arenas- since it's a ten year contract (service) and none have been at this type or magnitude very interested in these factors, past performance, financial soundness, safety)
- two subcommittees combined to determine the best value to the government, and reviewed the previous factors and bid price
- contract awarded to
  - o Future Forests Limited Liability Corp. consisting of WB Contracting – Walker Brothers owners w/ over 18 yrs of experience w/ lots of background (Eager, AZ),
  - o Forest Energy Corp- R. Davis (Showlow, AZ) produces wood pellets for heating, animal bedding, etc. and current use is 100000 green tons/yr.
- it's an indefinite quantity contract (task orders): will offer a minimum per year (5k), provides contractor right of first refusal for acres above 15K/yr, mult. Task orders
- Contract bid items are: value items (price per ccf for saw timber/roundwood), cost items depends on the treatment that are called for- until markets develop for biomass and roundwood and will move more to equilibrium five years out estimated, optional cost item during first 4 yrs of contract
- Contract requires that all sawtimber and roundwood, limbs, tops, small trees (this depends on existence of markets and federal funding)
- Question from M. Moore: for trees under 5in diameter are they going to be locked and dropped or cut and pile; answer: it will be cut and pile;
- Question from Tyler: How much of the biomass will Rob use?; answer: min 4 inches, max 10-11 inches
- Status of contract: contract to be signed and task orders by 9/10/04
- Question from M. Moore: blue areas on map (southern area of project area) will probably be addressed later
- Community wildfire protection plans have been adopted by communities for most of project area, identified high/low risk areas...developed in collaborative process (if overlay this coverage of the area of this project, there is good overlap...the project aligns well with wildfire protection plans and priority areas)
- Wildfire protection plans: prescriptions developed for treatment to reduce risk, these prescr for federal lands should used as a starting pt.
- Interface thinning: Heber-Overgaard- most of Ponderosa Pines have died out and project was completed with hydroaxe, efficient on ground and economically
- Interface thinning: Pinetop-Lakeside- Showlow may look like this after thinning (done by Walker Bros), equip: skidder, chain flail debarker and chipper used (can deal w/ material efficiently and situated very well to take advantage of any markets i.e chips)
- Multi party monitoring board has been set-up: 8-10 member including interests around geographic area in White Mtn., will monitor economic social and environmental effects (long-term) and develop protocols, methods for long term monitoring

c. Vision of the role of collaboration in decision-making surrounding both bid award implementation and subsequent determination of acres and treatments

- question from K.S.: are contracts based on acreage...is there a variety of the amount and types of material...can the contractor request more or less of certain material as time goes on...will it be quite variable from year based on vegetation; answer: it could vary, during proposal gave them info on all types of vegetation before making bid, there are no current plans to adjust proportions for different categories and will take it as it comes, some contractors have a progression of task orders and they need a certain product can refocus on the projects needed
- follow-up: using fuels, vegetation management and timber appropriations
- 5k acres will cost 1.9 million for contract per year, 5k at very least has to be offered, ideally it would be 15K/year
- question from Tyler: what % of money app; answer- 90-95% of appropriations (50% from veg mgt appropriations) to project
- question M. Moore: minimal removal of biomass, sawtimber, etc. ... how much is an effective removal of

biomass and what level of resources are needed in order to facilitate this; answer- based on avg acre/contract it would be \$900/acre piled/burned onsite, \$100-200/acre + \$50-75/acre if contractor can be piled and burned on site, financially agency can't afford to do all of it right now

- question from public: how many acres have you been doing per year (pile burning): answer- a few thousand acres a year
- K. Schlertis comment: 30K piles in Payson waiting to be burned, increasing programs yearly in terms of piles to be burned...there is and will be more burning
- Question from L. Faeth: what can we do to help you succeed to make this contracting work and both councils are at your disposal...
- Tyler offers monitoring help and mobilizing council member to assist and M. Moore said Economic committee volunteers for it
- Question from L. Faeth: you have funding for one year, do you need more funding appropriated for the following year from congress; answer- we expect some increase in funding and it should be in our appropriations, money can

5) Northern Arizona Wood Products Association- absent

6) Future meeting dates and locations

a. Fall 2004 schedule

- i. October 14<sup>th</sup> - Safford
- ii. November 4<sup>th</sup> - Phoenix (confirm date)
- iii. December - Break

7) Community Wildfire Protection Plan at work in the City of Flagstaff- Asst. Fire Chief (Jim Wheeler)

- just about complete and has been collaborative venture (Greater Flagstaff forest Partnership and Ponderosa Forest Advisory Council)
- approach was in house expertise and using these two group as catalyst to assign work and retrieve public input
- now will move to local jurisdiction and ultimately state land department
- question from M. Moore: out of the \$123 million, how much is high priority funds; answer- US Forest Service is apart of the plan development team and they will be the one requesting the appropriations for it. There's a lot of unilateral efforts, private developers, state land depts., and US Forest Service, and multi-lateral efforts as well. Some projects overlap and others don't and funding will vary. The wildfire protection plan is a gate for funding when it happens. High priority area is defined and the land mgmt agency should correlate projects accordingly.
- Greater Flagstaff Wildland/Urban Interface follows guidelines from HFRA
- Flagstaff, Parks/Bellemont, Mormon Lake, Munds Park, Sedona/Oak Creek Canyon are the areas covered under this plan (almost 1million acres total)
- used Forest ERA data for planned development
- GFFP area projects started already in some areas, plans and projects have been ongoing for some time
- Thin, thin and burn, among many other methods are employed in patchwork quilt fashion, thin where and whenever you can
- Overlay of various types of data combine to make a threat map
- Treatments vary: through density levels
- Forest ERA can take potential treatments and show what the change will be (show that the threat level can be changed if action taken on different priority levels...the effect/results of various treatments)
- Offers hypothetical costs of treatments (high-low intensity) on various priority areas
- What's next: continues to engage communities (public workshops, newsletters, emails, etc), confirmed it's the appropriate W/UI boundary, finalize plan and move through various agencies and get support from USFS, work throughout the community to get private land fuel reduction treatments done
- Proposed timeline: Sept- refine CWPP draft, public outreach, Oct- submission to PFAC, Nov-Dec- State land dept approval
- For further info: Steve Gatewood (GFFP)- 225-0644 & [steveg@gffp.org](mailto:steveg@gffp.org), Paul Summerfelt (Flagstaff Fire Dept/PFAC)- 779-7685 ext. 7283 & [psummerfelt@ci.flagstaff.az.us](mailto:psummerfelt@ci.flagstaff.az.us)

## 8) Call to the Public

- Public comments from the Greater Flagstaff Fire Dept. Wildfire Protection Plan incorporated in the report

## 9) Future Business for the Fall and Presentations:

- ask someone from region 3 to present on fire management and different options possible: one of the most important planning efforts (what forests can we let burn and cannot let burn)
  - o fire plans that can be shared: on the ground planning and implementation will probably go best in that presentation
  - o Robert Morales from Prescott National Forests: they just implemented a plan that may be of interest, and belongs to national team...possible resource to offer interesting perspective
- Forest plan revisions may be received starting in 2006, in the next round of management planning, should examine relationship planning between fire management, etc.
- G. Barro could be a good presenter: Fire Shed Assessment Methodology development- within fire shed what actions might be taken and implications of them (could fit in well after fire management presentation)
- C. Allen is another presenter: gave one on Landscape and Ecological Impacts of Drought at Western Gov. Conf.
- D. Falk: just finished dissertation on restoration and could discuss what he's been working on
- R. Van Demar: said it would be helpful to discuss on how to integrate concepts of sustainability and other traditional (historical/archaic) methods of forest management, have individuals present on land volumes, health regimes...must gain understanding of principles of what we're putting in there
- Should consider the timeline for how to deal with forest restoration planning, how will all the plans from both national and individual forest planning should be coordinated
- C. Edminster: suggested a presentation on bark beetle infestations from group in his building in Flagstaff...relationship of these beetles and drought; John Anhold may be a good contact
- L. Faeth: N. Mexico has been moving forward w/ Forest Health Council and could hold joint meeting to share best practices, goals, methods, etc. Butch Blazer or Rebecca Reynolds are good contacts (maybe after Dec)
- Analysis of infrastructures, processes, management, etc....lessons learned from Jeff Whitney (Fish & Wildlife Service in Albuquerque)
- M. Moore: AZ Fish and Gaming Dept. could present on what they think about the direction of Forest Health in this state and maybe their recommendations (B. Broscheid will help with those contacts)
- L. Faeth: it would be helpful to check in with the recommendations in addition to the economics, looking at demonstration restoration project law that passed state forester to identify all these different projects...could council come up with recommendations for state forester to fulfill statutory requirement

\*\*will have follow-up document

## 10) Adjournment

*Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July 2004 - Governor's Forest Health Councils*

CO-CHAIRS <http://www.governor.state.az.us/FHC/> Beth Zimmerman – Department of Emergency and Military Affairs Diane Vosick – Ecological Restoration Institute, NAU Taylor McKinnon – Grand Canyon Trust Rep. Tom O'Halleran – Arizona House of Representatives